



UPCOMING CSRS PROGRAM

Building Capacities for Cross-Cultural Communication

August 15 - 19, 2010
Washington, DC Area

The Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies (CSRS) is offering a four-day workshop in cross-cultural communication with emphasis on peace and conflict issues. The purpose of the workshop is to create an interactive forum in which practitioners of diverse backgrounds can jointly explore how to work with cultural differences in volatile social contexts. Cultural issues to be explored include ideological, religious and ethno-political factors shaping and reshaping social behavior at

the communal, national and international levels. This workshop will be particularly valuable to engaged practitioners with hands-on experience in peace operations, security sector reform, interfaith relations, gender mainstreaming, humanitarian assistance and sustainable development.

Learning Objectives:

- *Cultivating self-awareness:* Recognize invisible cultural influences that frame and guide habitual ways of thinking and behavior.
- *Understanding deep culture:* Describe how collective identities embedded in shared historical memories manifest and evolve in times of political crisis.
- *Building cultural fluency:* Learn how to navigate cross-cultural differences and turn them into opportunities for constructive relationship-building, especially in volatile post-war contexts.
- *Networking:* Expand professional networks among diverse practitioner communities engaged in cross-cultural communication.

Day-to-day highlights of the workshop include:

- Use of stories, metaphors and rituals for bridging different patterns of thinking.
- Dynamic interactions between conflict and culture.
- Approaches to creating cross-cultural synergy for transforming conflict.

Methodology:

The workshop will be highly participatory and engaging. It will draw heavily on concrete case studies informed by the instructor's extensive cross-cultural experience in East and South Asia, the African Great Lakes region, the Middle East, the Balkans and North America. It will further incorporate presentations and dialogues among diverse practitioners from the field. Participants will learn analytical frameworks and practical tools, apply them to real-world challenges, reflect on concrete examples based on their own field experience and engage in simulations and interactive dialogue. The workshop will serve as a cross-cultural forum where participants from diverse

backgrounds will jointly explore how to build effective working relationships and expand their horizon of cultural awareness through experiential learning.

Desired Participants: The optimum class size is 35 participants. CSRS will recruit participants (both US and international) from the four main communities that work in stabilization and reconstruction operations: government civilian agencies, armed forces, non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations. CSRS will attempt to obtain an equal number of representatives from each community.

This course is approved as annual training for members of the US Government Civilian Response Corps.

Faculty: Dr. Tatsushi Arai at the School for International Training (SIT) is the lead instructor and facilitator. As needed, other CSRS instructors and course participants will deliver educational modules.

Specific Dates: Workshop begins 5 pm Sunday, August 15 and concludes 5 pm Thursday, August 19, 2010.

Travel: All international and domestic participants should plan to arrive by 5 pm, Sunday, August 15, 2010. All are welcome to arrive before or depart after the program officially begins/concludes, but additional accommodation expenses will be their own responsibility.

Accommodations: Participants will lodge and the event will be held at a hotel in the greater Washington DC metropolitan area.

Cost:

- There is no tuition or conference fee. The course is co-sponsored by the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, US Department of State and the Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies, at the US Naval Postgraduate School.
- Practitioners from non-governmental organizations, governmental civilian agencies, and inter-governmental organizations are offered gratis lodging and meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, beginning with a reception on August 15 and concluding with lunch on August 19) at the event site. (Representatives of the defense/armed forces community - including civilian employees - pay for their own lodging and meals.)

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Application: The application period will close on July 7, 2009. We anticipate that the demand for this course will far exceed the number of participants that can be admitted. Admission decisions will be announced on a rolling basis starting June 16, 2010 until all seats are filled. Applications are accepted via the CSRS online system at:

http://www.csrns.org/logistica/public/conference_register.cfm.

Members of the US Civilian Response Corps must also complete the S/CRS-Sponsored Training Agreement at: <http://www.crs.state.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.display&shortcut=CGTZ>.